

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 16 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite, Applicants hereby amend the claims to overcome the Section 112, rejection and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claims 3, 25, and 26. Applicants hereby amend the claims as suggested in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 through 10, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, and 25 through 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on United States Patent No. 5,120,121 to Rawlings. Applicants' claimed invention has a base layer that has a translucent color zone of a uniform color. The cited patent neither teaches nor discloses the use of such a base layer. In view of that, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejection based on the Rawlings patent.

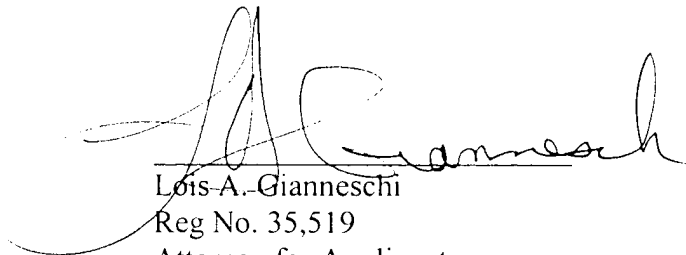
The Examiner rejected claims 1, 11, 12, 15, 19, 20 and 23 through 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on United States Patent No. 4,720,188 to Knapp. Knapp fails to teach or disclose a base layer with a translucent color zone of a uniform color. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejection based on the Knapp patent.

The Examiner rejected claims 16, 11 through 14, 19, 20, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Rawlings in view of Knapp. Each of Rawlings and Knapp fails to teach or disclose at least one material element of the claimed invention. Therefore, whether considered singly or in combination, the cited patents cannot be found to render the claimed invention obvious. Withdrawal of the Section 103(a) rejection based on the Rawlings and Knapp patents is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance.
Entry of the amendments, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: July 30, 2002
Johnson & Johnson
Law Department
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08933




Lois A. Gianneschi
Reg No. 35,519
Attorney for Applicants
(732) 524-6351

MARKED COPY OF THE CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES

1. (once amended) A contact lens, comprising at least one surface comprising a base layer having a clear central zone and a translucent color zone of a uniform color and one or more additional color layers selected from the group consisting essentially of a second translucent color layer, an opaque color layer, or a combination thereof, wherein each of the one or more additional color layers has a clear central zone and a color zone.
2. The lens of claim 1, wherein color zones of the base layer and additional color layers cover greater than about 85 percent of the area of an iris.
3. (once amended) The lens of claim 1, wherein the color zones of the base layer and the additional color layers cover greater than about 90 percent of the area of an iris.
4. The lens of claim 2, wherein the color zone of the base layer covers about 85 to about 99 percent of the area of the iris and the color zones of the one or more additional color layers cover about 40 to about 70 percent of the area of the iris.
5. The lens of claim 3, wherein the color zone of the base layer covers about 85 to about 99 percent of the area of the iris and the color zones of the one or more additional color layers cover about 40 to about 70 percent of the area of the iris.
6. Canceled.
7. Canceled.
8. (once amended) The lens of claim 2, wherein the [base layer] color zone of at least one of the one or more additional color layers is of a uniform color.

- 
- 
9. Canceled.
10. (once amended) The lens of claim [8] 1, comprising the base color layer and two opaque color layers.
11. (once amended) The lens of claim 1, wherein the [base layer] color zone of at least one of the one or more additional color layers is of a radially gradient color.
12. Canceled.
13. Canceled.
14. (once amended) The lens of claim [13] 11, wherein the [base layer] color zone of at least one of the one or more additional color layers further comprises clear or colored shapes selected from the group consisting of circles, ovals, triangles, lines, striae, feather-like shapes, and combinations thereof.
15. The lens of claim 1, further comprising a clear pre-polymer layer.
16. (once amended) The lens of claim 1, wherein the lens [further] comprises aquafilcon, etafilcon, genfilcon or lenefilcon.
17. (once amended) The lens of claim 1 [6], 7, 8, [9,] or 11, [12, or 13], wherein the additional color layers comprise one or more second translucent color layers each having a color zone of uniform color.
18. The lens of claim 17, wherein the color zones of the one or more second translucent color layers further comprise clear or colored shapes selected from the group consisting of circles, ovals, triangles, lines, striae, feather-like shapes, and combinations thereof.



19. (once amended) The lens of claim 1 [6], 7, 8, [9,] or 11, [12, or 13,] wherein the additional color layers comprise one or more second translucent color layers each having a color zone that is of a radially gradient color.

20. The lens of claim 19, wherein the color zone of the one or more second translucent layers further comprises clear or colored shapes selected from the group consisting of circles, ovals, triangles, lines, striae, feather-like shapes, and combinations thereof.

21. (once amended) The lens of claim 1 [6], 7, 8, [9,] or 11, [12, 13, 17, 18, 19 20,] wherein the additional color layers comprises one or more opaque color layers each having a color zone that is of a uniform color.

22. The lens of claim 21, wherein the color zones of the one or more opaque color layers further comprises clear or colored shapes selected from the group consisting of circles, ovals, triangles, lines, striae, feather-like shapes, and combinations thereof.

23. (once amended) The lens of claim 1 [6], 7, 8, [9,] or 11, [12, 13, 17, 18, 19 20,] wherein the additional color layers comprise one or more opaque color layers each having a color zone that is of a radially gradient color.

24. The lens of claim 23, wherein the one or more opaque layer color zone further comprises clear or colored shapes selected from the group consisting of circles, ovals, triangles, lines, striae, feather-like shapes, and combinations thereof.

25. (once amended) A method for manufacturing a tinted contact lens, comprising the step of: depositing onto a surface of a lens a base layer having a clear central zone and a translucent color zone of a uniform color and one or more additional color layers selected from the group consisting of a second translucent color [zone] layer, an opaque

color layer, or a combination thereof, wherein each of the one or more additional color layers has a clear central zone and a color zone.

26. (once amended) A method for manufacturing a tinted contact lens, comprising the steps of: depositing onto a molding surface of a lens mold a base layer having a clear central zone and a translucent color zone of a uniform color and one or more additional color layers selected from the group consisting of a second translucent color layer, an opaque color [layers] layer, or a combination thereof, wherein each of the additional color layers has a clear central zone and a color zone.

27. The method of claims 25 or 26, wherein the color zones of the color layers of the lens cover greater than about 85 percent of the area of an iris.

28. The method of claims 25 or 26, wherein the color zones of the color layers of the lens cover greater than about 90 percent of the area of an iris.

29. The lens of claim 27, wherein the color zone of the base layer covers about 85 to about 99 percent of the area of the iris and the color zones of the additional color layers cover about 40 to about 70 percent of the area of the iris.

30. The lens of claim 28, wherein the color zone of the base layer covers about 85 to about 99 percent of the area of the iris and the total coverage imparted by the color zones of the additional color layers is about 40 to about 70 percent of the area of the iris.

31. (once amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the [translucent] base layer is deposited onto the molding surface before any of the other color layers are deposited.

32. The method of claims 26 or 31, wherein deposition is carried out by pad printing.